

To the Chairman and Members of the Farnworth Urban District Council:

GENTLEMEN,

The number of deaths registered in your district during the year 1898 was 462, being an average of 18·48 per thousand per annum. In the previous year the deaths numbered 565, an average of 22·6 per thousand.

Of the deaths 193 were of children under 1 year.

51	„	„	between 1 and 5 years.
18	„	„	5 and 15 years.
42	„	persons	15 and 25 years.
100	„	„	25 and 65 years.
58	„	„	of 65 years and upwards.

The births during the year were Males 397, Females 390, total 787 ; against a total of 850 in the previous year. The birth rate per thousand of the population was 31·48, against 34·24 in the previous year.

The rate of infant deaths under 1 year to a thousand births was 243·95, against 245·32 in the previous year.

Twelve deaths were due to Typhoid Fever, 1 to Measles, 7 to Whooping Cough, 57 to Diarrhœa, 1 to Influenza, 26 to Phthisis, 81 to Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia ; 14 to Heart Disease, 9 to Injuries, and 253 to other causes. In 13 cases inquests were held. The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic diseases were 71, giving a rate of 2·84 per thousand, against 95 deaths, or an average of 3·8 per thousand in the previous year.

Small Pox has not shown itself during the year.

Typhoid Fever has extensively prevailed, 39 cases having been notified, of which 32 were removed to Hospital. With regard to the cause of the continued presence of this disease, I would quote the opinion of the County Medical Officer, who in his last annual report says :—“During an attack of Typhoid Fever, the germs of the infection are given off “in the evacuations, and as some cases are slight and not recognised, or come under observation “as Diarrhœa, the evacuations find their way into Ashpits and remain there a source of “infection. Under favourable conditions these germs may multiply exceedingly outside the “body and become a distinct danger to the inhabitants of privy midden districts.” The unpaved condition of many back yards is also a factor in the perpetuation of this disease.

Scarlet Fever caused no deaths, but 47 cases were notified, 42 of which were removed to Hospital. This step doubtless stayed the spread of the disease.

Eight cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified and one removed to Hospital.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified.

Two cases of Relapsing Fever were notified, one of which was removed to Hospital.

Chest Diseases largely contribute to the death rate.

The Infantile death rate is slightly lower than in the previous year, but is still lamentable.

The Hospital has done excellent service, 86 cases having been removed to it during the year. No difficulty has been found in persuading the people to use it, and for assistance in this respect my grateful thanks are due to my Medical friends. We are not provided with accommodation for Small Pox cases, and I would strongly urge upon you the desirability of joining the Whitefield Small Pox Hospital scheme. In view of the recent legislation as to Vaccination, it is not too much to say that in a few years such accommodation will be urgently required, though it is pleasing to note that the people of Farnworth are wise enough to believe in the efficacy of Vaccination.

Steps are being taken to bring into operation the inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds.

Much excellent work has been done in paving and sewerage.

The Lodging houses are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED KERSHAW, M.D.

FEB. 28th, 1899.

